

National Republican.

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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN

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WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30, 1879.

CLEARE THE TRACK! OLD ZACH IS COMING!!

ONLY twenty-nine working days—excluding Sundays—remain of the present session of Congress.

THE NEW YORK *Mail* proposes that SITTING BILL be sent to college, as that would add new zest for his comrades to that favorite pastime of the student known as bazing.

IN the four weeks that remain of the present session Mr. TILDEN and his friends will have very little time in which to accomplish the gigantic task involved in his vindication.

THE Democrats are very anxious that Mr. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER shall pick up his wick and shed a little more light upon the cipher dispatches. If they will only be patient they will get all the light they will want on this subject.

GOVERNOR HOYT, of Pennsylvania, does not find smooth sailing at the outset of his administration. He ran against a snug early. He nominated DAVID H. LANE as Recorder for the city of Philadelphia and the Senate rejected the nomination. This is said to be the result of personal objections.

THE Charleston *News* and *Courier* thinks that the remarks of Mr. BRAIG were in the worst possible taste; but it says "there is some excuse for his reproaches in the mass of claims presented by Southern members, and in the frankness with which they go for the old flag—and an appropriation."

The immediate confirmation by the Senate yesterday of the nomination of Senator CHRISTIANO to be Minister to Peru was a deserved compliment; but to the casual glance it may appear as if the grave and reverend seignors of that body were in a hurry to welcome ZACH CHANDLER back to their midst.

THE Republican members of the New York Legislature are strong on personal preferences. A short time since they voted unanimously for the Hon. ROSCOE CONKLING for United States Senator, and now they are said to be freely signing petitions for the confirmation of GENERAL MERRITT as collector of the port of New York. This is a little peculiar.

THE "BADGERS" temporarily resident in Washington have arranged to give Senator-elect CARPENTER a public reception on his arrival here to-night, the programme of which is outlined in our news columns this morning. The arrangements, if faithfully carried out, as they certainly will be, give promise of a reception fitting to the occasion and the eminent statesman to whom it is tendered.

GENERAL BRADY proves to be a match, as the phrase goes, for the POTTER inquisitors. He tells his story in a straightforward way, and despite their efforts to confuse him by entangling cross-examinations, he has succeeded in discrediting them and explaining in the light of truth his connection with the Florida court to the entire satisfaction of every reasonable man in the country.

THE Democratic majority of the POTTER Committee cannot evade the responsibility, brought upon them by their own deliberate action, of delaying the real inquiry which they are charged to make. Everybody knows they are plotting over a very trifling matter just now, which Mr. McMAHON himself has declared is not relevant, for no other object than to consume time and prevent a full exposure of the real tinker dispatch frauds.

BEFORE it is too late let the POTTER Committee give the public some information regarding the "board bills" of the Democratic visiting statesmen in Florida. We know now how those bills contracted by Republicans were paid, and if the Committee fails to make a similar exposure on the other side, its remissness will disappoint an anxious public. Exactly what all this has to do with the validity of The Title we are not prepared to say; but it must have something to do with it, or Mr. POTTER would not expend so much public time and money, not to say personal energy, upon it. Mr. POTTER is a statesman, he is!

FREE INSURANCE in most cases brings profit to the insurers. It is stated that only six out of the sixty-eight fire insurance companies in New York City failed to make dividends last year. The largest dividend (\$302,000) was declared by the Home; the next largest (\$134,000 and \$103,000 respectively) by the Continental and the American. The others ranged from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The average losses during the year were small in comparison with the premiums received; but the heavy blows struck since the beginning of this year will make a sharp call upon the reserves and justify the companies in returning to the higher rates that formerly prevailed.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New Orleans *Times* writes from Washington that "there is a good deal of indignation among the Southern Congressmen at what they believe to be double-dealing by 'Mr. RANDALL'." So Speaker RANDALL has fallen under displeasure with his Southern brethren because he declines to be made a tool to subserve the selfish interests of the South. We congratulate him on these evidences that he is right, so far as self-abnegation under their direction is concerned. If they cannot use

of course they will abuse him. They have never regarded him with favor beyond what an obliquity to their selfish interests would secure. That ended and their favor ceases.

Senator DONLEY's retirement from the Senate will be followed by the admission into that body as his successor, of one J. D. WALKER, a Democrat, of course, whose ability to fill his place seems to be doubted, for while Mr. DONLEY never has aimed to be known as a "talking Senator," he has succeeded in winning an enviable reputation as a hard-working one, which is as good, and more to the point far as the interests of his constituents have been concerned. Of his successor the Pittsburgh *Dispatch* says:

The best that can be said for WALKER at this time is that he adds another to the rather extended list of obscure United States Senators elected this winter.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30, 1879.

WHEN Philadelphia, or Pennsylvania—and the same thing politically—does break loose on an office-hunting mad, the result is an avalanche of applicants and a torrent of intrigue. Just now there are two important "Pennsylvania vacancies" to be filled by Federal appointment, viz: the successors of Judge CADWALLADER and Director LINDEMAN. Hence the recent influx in Washington of numerous Philadelphia politicians. But there is one thing to be commended about these Pennsylvania office-hunters, and that is that when one of them succeeds in his efforts, those who are unsuccessful rarely suffer from a prolonged attack of sore-headism. In short, it is their habit, after a natural effusion of gout at first blush of disappointment, to subside into a complacent gratification over the fact that "the old State has got it, after all; even if it is HEINRICH SCHMIDT—or some other P. D."

Give us the offices, and the scalawags are welcome to go where they please.

There is a canker about the above declaration that challenges our admiration. It suggests no new idea, but is a confession which is good for the soul. It is the old cry, with variations and modern improvements. Before the war the cry was "Give us the power to shape the policy and control the destinies of this Government and you can have peace—otherwise war."

The power of the Government was conserving itself, with the initial intent of a general war, but the Southerners, who were unsuccess-
fully fighting, had a little too much like

The Scalawag—The Scalawag sees such plan, also and it is better that it can be made to work, especially as more than half the Southern members express themselves in strong approval in private conversation. If they will only stand up to it, incaus it will be easily carried.

This presents a deep-laid scheme for taxing the people of the United States "to re-claim the alluvial lands of the Mississippi." These lands that lie in anxious waiting to be reclaimed and made arable and productive to the Southern farmer, or "planter," as they dignify themselves, extend for hundreds of miles along the banks of the Mississippi River. Much of this territory, if our recollection is accurate, is a gift of the United States to the States in which they lie, and having thus, without cost, procured possession of the territory, the modest demand is made that the given shall now stand the expense of reclaiming them and bringing them into a state of productivity. The idea of improving the navigation of the Mississippi and thus contributing to the commercial importance of that great water course seems to have been entirely abandoned, and for the reason we suppose, that the plan of accomplishing that end through the levee system is shown by eminent and well-balanced minds to be impracticable. The levee system does not advance the interests of navigation, while it will reclaim the lands that skirt the river banks and make them valuable to their owners. The brazen boldness of such a proposition is without parallel in all the net-work of plunder that has been invented to deplete upon the National Treasury. The public money to be devoted to private purposes and for private benefit! A scheme that finds its parallel in the depredations of the highwayman.

The bravado put on by the Southerns, as shadowed in the correspondence which we have published, is for a purpose. It seeks, through the bluster of such men as CHAMBERS and GUNNISON, to intimidate the North into an acquiescence in their schemes under the menace that no appropriation will be made in the interests of Northern commerce in the way of appropriations for harbors improvements in New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, unless an appropriation is made for the purpose of reclaiming and protecting the alluvial plantations of the Mississippi Valley. This is the issue presented, and we are gratified that it has been made in the spirit that pervades the case. In the traverse of this issue the South will find that it gains nothing by this menace of revenge. Whatever is needed for the protection and promotion of Northern Western, or even Southern commerce will be secured by the action of Congress in spite of the vengeful hates of the plunders for plunder and personal advantage. These appropriations will be secured, too, without granting others that merely look to the reclaiming and protection of the alluvial plantations of men who would have destroyed the Government if they could, and who now defy its authority, and rob a class of its citizens of their inalienable rights. Then, again, only the Mississippi States are directly interested in this grand steal. Neither Kentucky, North nor South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, nor Virginia are interested in these alluvial reclaiming and conserving schemes of plunder, and share not in the incentives which prompt them. It will in no degree advance their interests to have millions upon millions of the national treasure poured into the laps of the Mississippi cotton-growers to enable them to increase the area of their crops. The thing is so absurd that it brings its own antidote.

There are plans for improving the commercial interests of the Mississippi which do not partake so widely of the spirit of plunder as marks the levee scheme, and which may be far more beneficial and less expensive to the Government. We allude to only one now, and that is the plan presented by Captain COWSON. In referring to this we make the following extracts from highly respectable Northern and Western journals. They are all friendly to any sensible plan for improving the commercial interests of the Mississippi River as a water way, but discard the levee system as an exploded humbug, and the commission scheme is a child of the same family:

From Cincinnati Commercial: The Missouri Republican should take notice that we are not opposed to the improvement of the Mississippi River. We are in favor of improving the river by dredging and bottoming it, to open it up, and opening the channel by cutting through the barrens.

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